

GRANDCARERS SUPPORT SCHEME

400. Mrs A.K. HAYDEN to the Minister for Child Protection:

I have a supplementary question. Thank you, minister. So, just to confirm, there is currently no funding in the budget for the grandcarers support scheme. I want to ask the minister: the government's responsibilities and priorities seem to be aligned instead to funding more hospitality for Government House, Pets in Crisis, and more staff to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, but we cannot seem to find the money for respite for grandcarers.

The SPEAKER: Member! I think you have stretched it out a bit.

Mrs A.K. HAYDEN: Will the minister fund respite for grandcarers? It is only \$125 000.

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

Just to be clear, what I said is that there is not a separate line item in the budget, but I have asked the department to look at whether we can continue that particular support. Of course, there are other supports that are given to grandcarers in WA. We are amongst the only state, if not the only state, that gives an annual amount to grandcarers.

Mrs A.K. Hayden interjected.

Ms S.F. McGURK: Just on one point that the member made, criticising the Pets in Crisis program, the Pets in Crisis program has been very strongly supported by victims of domestic violence —

Mrs A.K. Hayden interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Darling Range! I call you to order for the second time.

Ms S.F. McGURK: — who at times second-guess their decision to leave a violent relationship because they do not know what to do with their pets. The Pets in Crisis program is a fostering program, facilitated with the RSPCA —

Mrs A.K. Hayden interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Darling Range!

Ms S.F. McGURK: — so that people leaving a violent relationship, and their children, can know that their pets are secure and being looked after while they get themselves on their feet. I am surprised the member decides to criticise that sort of scheme.

The SPEAKER: That is the end of question time.